

IN THE CLAIMS

1-22. Cancelled

23. (previously presented) A method of producing a transformed plant with a modified level of zeaxanthin comprising growing a plant transformed with a construct comprising, in the order of transcription, a plant transcription initiation region, a DNA sequence encoding a plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase, and a transcriptional termination region, wherein said promoter sequence is heterologous to said DNA sequence.

24. (currently amended) The method of Claim 23 wherein the DNA sequence encoding a plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~SEQ ID NO:2,~~ and SEQ ID NO:3, and SEQ ID NO:5.

25. (previously presented) A plant produced by the method of Claim 23.

26. (currently amended) The plant of Claim 25 wherein the DNA sequence encoding a plant violaxanthin de-epoxidase is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~SEQ ID NO:2,~~ and SEQ ID NO:3, and SEQ ID NO:5.